Protection for women workers

2936. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps Government has taken to protect women emigrants working in different countries?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): The Government has taken various measures for protecting the safety and welfare of women migrant workers in different countries. These include:—

(i) Age restriction of 30 years has been made mandatory in respect of all women emigrants emigrating on ECR passports to ECR countries, irrespective of the nature/category of employment.

(ii) The employment contract must be duly attested by the Indian Missions in respect of all women holding ECR passports and emigrating to ECR countries.

(iii) Women household workers must be paid a minimum wage in the range of US $ 300-350, as fixed by the Indian Missions in the ECR countries, with due regard to the market wage. A pre-paid mobile facility must be provided by the employer to every woman Household Service Worker. If the Foreign Employer recruits the worker directly, he is required to deposit a security of $2500 in the form of a Bank Guarantee with the Mission.

(iv) The Ministry has set up the Overseas Workers Resource Centre (OWRC) with a 24 × 7 Helpline to enable emigrant workers/prospective emigrants including women to obtain information on all emigration related matters and seek redressal of their complaints against Recruiting Agents/Foreign Employers.

(v) The Missions abroad are setting up Indian Workers Resource Centre (IWRC) in the host countries to provide information and assistance to emigrants including women emigrants.

(vi) The Ministry has also launched a vigorous Awareness — cum — Publicity Campaign through the print and electronic media to sensitize potential emigrant workers including women emigrants about legal emigration process and hazards of illegal emigration.

Institute for overseas Indians

†2937. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any institute has been established for overseas Indians so that they could contribute to developmental activities in India;

(b) whether they would have to contribute through this medium alone;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether presently they make remittance directly to concerned individuals or via any Government agency; and

(d) the current status and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

The focus of the Ministry is to establish an institutional framework to enable Overseas Indians to engage with India in the economic, social and cultural spheres. Towards this end the Ministry has established:—

(i) The Overseas Indian Facilitation Center (OIFC) a not-for-profit-trust, in partnership with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Center covers two broad areas *viz*: Investment Facilitation and Knowledge Networking.

(ii) The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF) a not-for-profit trust to provide a credible window for Overseas Indian Philanthropy in India's Social development.

The Ministry has also launched a new initiative to develop a Diaspora Knowledge Network called — Global Indian Network of Knowledge (Global INK). The Global INK, an electronic platform will connect people of Indian Origin from a variety of disciplines recognized as leaders in their respective fields, not just in their country of residence but globally as well, with knowledge users at the national and sub national levels in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Remittances are in the nature of private transfers and are sent directly to individuals concerned.

(d) The OIFC is fully functional whereas IDF and Global INK are in the nascent stage.

Workers in Malaysia

2938. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of immigrant Indian workers in Malaysia;

(b) whether they are living in depressed conditions; and

(c) the remedial measures undertaken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) It is estimated that there are over 1,50,000 documented Indian workers and about 45,000 undocumented workers in Malaysia.

(b) According to the Indian Mission in Malaysia, they receive complaints from workers relating to non-payment, arbitrary reduction or delay in payment of wages, longer working hours and lack of proper accommodation, food and medical facilities, etc. Complaints of contracts entered into at the time of recruitment being replaced by the employers with the terms and